

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Re-examination and favorable reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following comments are respectfully requested.

Claims 12 - 23 are pending in the application. Claims 12 - 14, 16 - 18, and 21 - 23 stand rejected and claims 15, 19, and 20 stand objected to.

By the present amendment, the subject matter of cancelled objected to claim 15 has been incorporated into claim 12. Thus, claims 12 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 13, 14 and 16 - 23 are now all allowable since they depend directly or indirectly from claim 12.

In the office action, claims 12, 13, 18, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0015565 to Imamura; claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imamura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,539,147 to Mahony; claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imamura in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0176567 to Chen et al.; and claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imamura.

The foregoing rejections are traversed by the instant response since claim 12 now includes the allowable subject matter of claim 15.

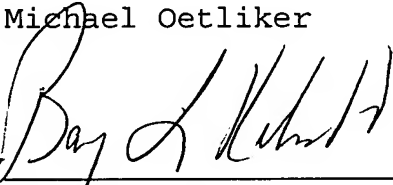
The instant application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe an additional amendment is needed to place the case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed to be due as a result of this response.
Should the Director determine that a fee is due, he is hereby
authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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I, Nicole Motzer, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on March 3, 2006.

